

SENATE BILL 1135

By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to teachers and certification.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-5609, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

§ 49-5-5609.

(a) It is the legislative intent to encourage Tennessee teachers to seek voluntary national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

(1) The commissioner of education shall provide reimbursement to no more than twenty-five (25) teachers to cover the evaluation fees. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, teachers must apply to the commissioner for state funding and have completed the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards evaluation.

(2) The commissioner shall provide no more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) financial aid in the form of low-interest loans to teachers seeking national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A teacher receiving a loan pursuant to this subdivision shall only be required to repay the state half of the amount loaned, with no interest incurred for the amount forgiven, if such teacher submits a complete and scorable portfolio in one (1) process. The teacher shall not be required to repay the remainder of the loan if such teacher successfully obtains certification.

(b) If a licensed teacher is successful in obtaining national certification, then such teacher shall receive three thousand dollars (\$3000) annually in addition to any other compensation received by such teacher; provided that such teacher's

responsibilities are composed of at least sixty percent (60%) classroom instruction and such teacher has not been the subject of any disciplinary action.

(c) The commissioner shall report to the state board of education regarding the number of Tennessee candidates and the number attaining certification.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-109, is amended by designating the current language as subsection (a) and by adding the following language as a new subsection (b):

(b) For purposes of this section, a holder of a certificate in another state includes a teacher who has obtained national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated part:

§ 49-5-1\_\_.

The state board of education shall recognize national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as qualifying a teacher for renewal of the teacher's license if such teacher obtained certification prior to such renewal but after the most recent renewal of the teacher's license or after such teacher's initial licensure, if the teacher is seeking an initial renewal.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.